श्री

बी.एस.एस. — Bakhar Sanshodhan Sangraha

BHARAT SATYA SAMPURNA · HISTORICAL RESEARCH DOSSIER

Modi Document Preservation Project — Tamil University, Thanjavur

Preservation, Conservation, Digitization & Devanagari Transliteration of the Thanjavur Maratha Archive

यत्र योगेश्वरः कृष्णो यत्र पार्थो धनुर्धरः। तत्र श्रीर्विजयो भूतिर्ध्रुवा नीतिर्मतिर्मम॥

Bhagavad Gita 18.78 — invoked as this dossier's guiding verse

TIER 2 · INSTITUTIONAL SOURCE, PARTIALLY CORROBORATED

Source: Raju Chatarsing Pardeshi, "Geo-Strategic Importance of Forts in Swarajya," *Shivcharitra Pushpanjali Khand-2* (Special Issue, Vol. 13, No. 2, June 2024), ISBN 978-81-963502-0-8, pp. 113–123. Akhil Bhartiya Shri Shivcharitra Sahitya Sammelan — Nutan Maratha Mahavidyalaya, Jalgaon & Itihas Prabodhan Sanstha, Maharashtra.
Prepared for the Bharat Satya Sampurna (BSS) research archive, from an official Tamil University project infographic.

1 Historical Background

From 1676 to 1855, Thanjavur in present-day Tamil Nadu was ruled by a line of Maratha kings descending from Ekoji (Venkoji) Raje Bhosale, the half-brother of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. For nearly 180 years the city served as the capital of this southern Maratha kingdom, and its administration, society, economy, education, culture, literature, language, medicine and governance generated a vast body of historical documentation.

Although the language of administration was Marathi, the script used for daily government records was Modi — the cursive administrative hand once common across Maratha domains before Devanagari became the standard. As a result, a substantial slice of Deccan and South Indian history survives largely in Modi manuscripts, today inaccessible to most Marathi readers, researchers, and the general public.

2 The Project — Objectives & First Phase

With funding from the Government of Maharashtra, Tamil University, Thanjavur has undertaken a structured programme to preserve, conserve, digitize, and transliterate these Modi manuscripts into Devanagari, alongside cataloguing and eventual publication. The preservation-conservation workflow proceeds through four stages: cleaning, flattening, repair & restoration, and systematic classification and arrangement of each document.

First-phase figures reported: 5,88,500 Modi documents preserved & conserved in total, of which 3,76,000 have been digitized — roughly 5 lakh digital image frames stored across 20 hard disk drives. A further 2,12,500 documents are undergoing digitization and supplementary processing at Tamil University. Cataloguing involves reading each digitized document and preparing a 1–3 line Marathi (Devanagari) summary index; Devanagari transliteration is carried out by a select pool of experienced Modi scholars. In the pilot phase, 37 Modi scholars were engaged, each assigned roughly 50 documents, for a combined trial batch of 1,850 documents used to test the cataloguing workflow.

3 Significance & Verification Note

Once complete, the project is expected to make thousands of previously inaccessible primary-source documents available to historians and researchers — material bearing directly on Maratha administration, society, economy, culture, language and literature in the Deccan and further south.

> **Independent corroboration:** Cross-checked against public reporting, multiple independent sources (Maharashtra government press coverage, a 2020 Indology research note, and a 2024 peer-reviewed journal article) confirm that the Maharashtra government has funded Tamil University, Thanjavur for Modi-document digitization and cataloguing across several funding phases since at least 2013. The Ekoji/Venkoji Bhosale lineage and the 1676–1855 rule of the Thanjavur Marathas are consistent with established historiography. However, the specific operational statistics in this dossier (total document counts, digitization figures, HDD counts, scholar numbers) originate from the institution's own infographic and could not be independently cross-verified against public sources — they are recorded here as institutional self-reporting, not confirmed third-party data.

§ Tier Classification & Source Note

Tier 2 — Institutional Source, Partially Corroborated

This dossier is built from an official Tamil University, Thanjavur project infographic. Its historical framing (Thanjavur Maratha lineage, dates, Modi-as-administrative-script) is independently corroborated by multiple public sources. Its operational statistics (document counts, digitization figures) are institutional self-disclosure that could not be cross-verified against public records at the time of compilation, and should be cited as such — reported by the institution, not independently confirmed.

References

1. तमिळ विद्यापीठ, तंजावर — अधिकृत प्रकल्प माहितीपत्रक (या दस्तऐवजाचा मूळ स्रोत / Source infographic for this dossier).
2. C-DAC Pune, “Replaced by Devanagari & almost forgotten, ancient Modi script finally goes digital.”
3. Indology Research Notes, “Tamil University, Tamil Heritage Foundation, British Library, National Manuscript Mission — Digitization of the Manuscripts,” August 2020.
4. International Journal of Computing, Vol. 23(2), 2024 — reference to Tamil University’s Modi-document digitization funding.

Compiled for the Bharat Satya Sampurna archive — a companion record to the family's own Modi-script research diaries.